Shiksha Kosh (PSK) has been established with effect from 14.11.2005 as a dedicated non-lapsable fund to receive the proceeds of the cess. Prior to this, however, plan allocations under various schemes have not been sub-divided accordingly to source (i.e. Education Cess and Gross Budgetary Support). The estimated receipts of Rs. 8,746 crore for the year 2006-07 will be transferred to the Kosh after exhausting the funds provided by way of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS). The funds in the Kosh will be exclusively used for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NE-NSPE) MDM.

Tax concessions to power sector

1522. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering of removing disparity in tax treatment on generation, transmission and distribution in power sector and also qualifying pipelines and LNG facilities as core sector as has often been demanded by CII/FICCI, etc.;

(b) if so, whether this will entail any substantial reduction in revenue; and

(c) what are the salient features of tax concessions which power sector is likely to get during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) So far as direct taxes are concerned, the Finance Bill, 2006 proposes to extend the terminal date for setting up of undertakings for generation, distribution and transmission of power from 31.3.2006 to 31.3.2010. With regard to indirect taxes, no fresh concessions for power sector have been given in this year's Budget 2006-07.

World Bank loan to Indian Council of Agriculture Research

1523. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank will provide $ 250 million loan to the Indian Council of Agriculture Research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) for what purpose Government are seeking a loan of such big amount;

(d) what are the details of this agreement; and

(e) how the repayment of this loan will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has agreed to provide IDA credit of US$ 200 million for the National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) proposed to be implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The contribution of Government of India shall be US$ 50 million. The objectives of the project include capacity building of ICAR research on production to consumption system in priortiy areas/themes, basic and strategic research in the frontier areas of agricultural sciences and rural livelihood security. The repayment of this credit shall be made according to the standard repayment procedures governing credits from the World Bank.

Recovery of banks' dues

1524. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NPAs of Public Sector Banks have decreased in 2005-06 as compared to 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details of NPAs as on 31st March, 2005 and 31st March, 2006;

(c) what effective measures the Public Sector Banks are taking for expeditious recovery of dues from the borrowers in NPA accounts; and

(d) whether his Ministry propose to start a special drive so as the effectively and quickly recover NPAs from the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Gross Non-performing Assets of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have reduced from 5.5% as on 31st March, 2005 to 4.5% as on 31st December, 2005. Net Non-performing Assets of PSBs have also come down from 2.1% as on 31st March, 2005 to 1.5% as on 31st December, 2005.

(c) and (d) The banks take appropriate action to recover outstanding loans in accordance with their overall loan recovery policies, which, *inter-alia*, include regular follow up of loan accounts, filing of suits in civil courts/